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Donations sought for Asian relief

The Canadian Red Cross is appealing to local residents for cash donations to support relief efforts following the devastating earthquake and tidal wave in Asia.

The natural disaster that occurred Sunday caused flash floods across southern Asia and left at least 69,000 people dead, thousands injured and more than one million displaced.

Funds raised will help the international and local Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies provide immediate relief and basic assistance such as tents, blankets, water purification tablets and generators to the tens of thousands of people affected.

Donations can be made by stopping by the North Halton office or mailing them to 100 Nipissing Rd., Unit 5, Milton, L9T 5B2, or by calling (905) 875-1459.

The office is open today from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Sunday and Monday. Normal hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday.

Cheques can also be mailed to the Canadian Red Cross National Office, 170 Metcalfe St., Suite 300, Ottawa, Ont., K2P 2P2. Cheques should be made payable to the Canadian Red Cross, earmarked 'South East Asia Earthquake and Tidal Wave Relief'.

At press time yesterday, the North Halton branch reported it's received \$10,000 in local donations for the relief effort so far.

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Mall power fails

While Christmas shopping can be stressful at the best of times, it became an extra headache at Milton Mall December 22 when the power went out during the last-minute rush.

Fortunately though, it only ended up being a minor 20minute inconvenience reportedly caused by a transformer explosion.

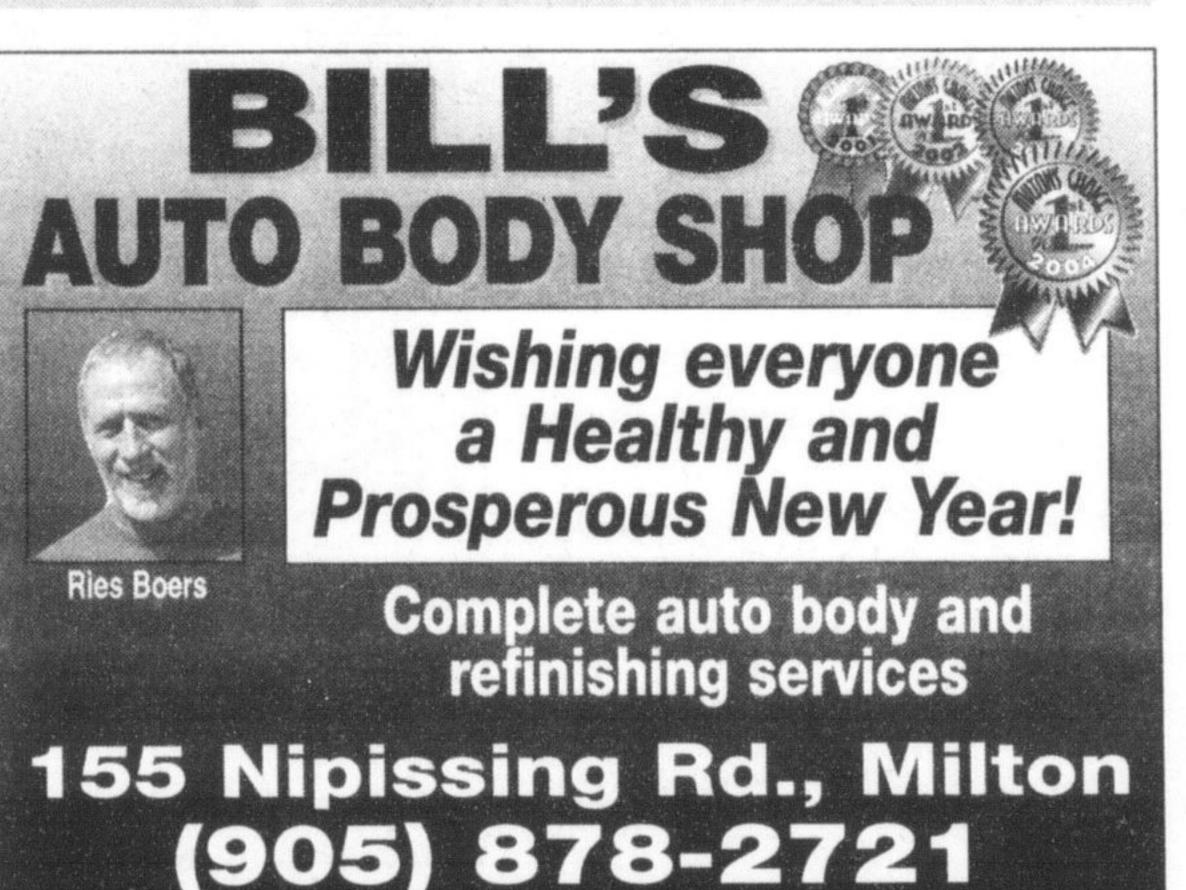
During the outage, some stores closed, while most customers milled around waiting for the power to come back on.

Milton Mall General Manager Holly Rivers said once the power went out, management was in contact with all of the stores and asked employees to stand by.

Several mall stores indicated the outage had little effect on their business that day.

"Some customers left, but I think most of them came back later on," said Radio Shack Manager Frank Cicero. "I don't think it was a big disaster."

Coles Manager Kim Truman shared similar sentiments. "It's an inconvenience," she said. "If it had been for half a day, it would have been bad, but most people just hung out and waited."



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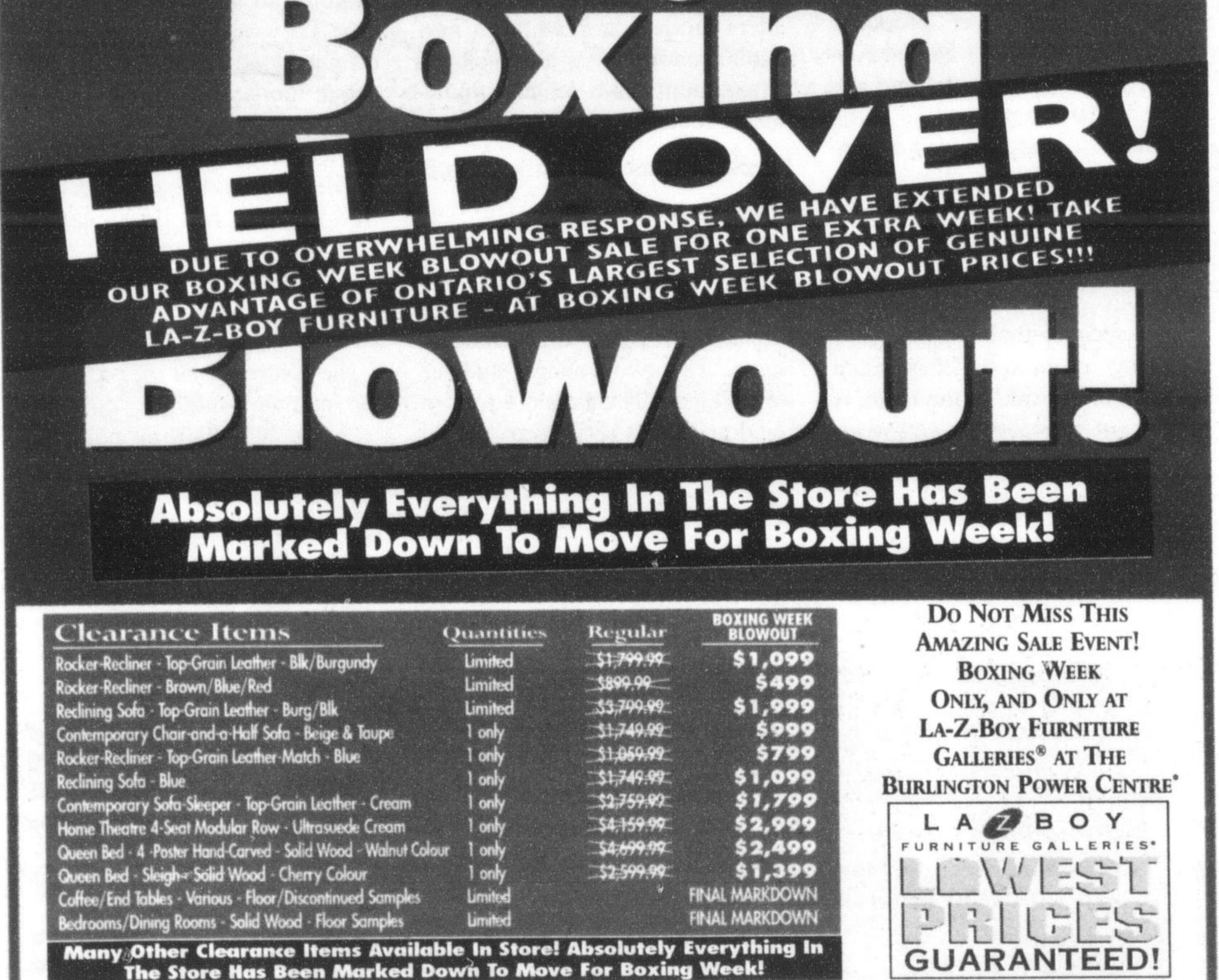
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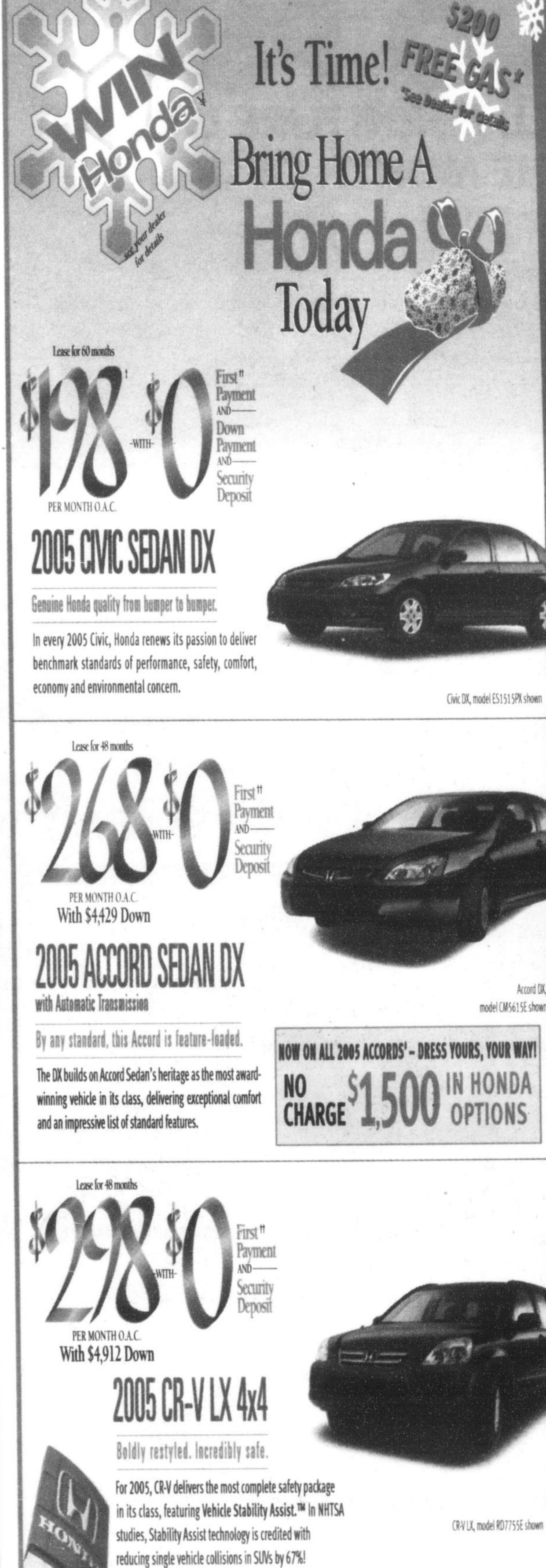
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